

Joppa/Joppatowne Community Council

Meeting Number 121 (04-12)

April 9, 2012

The Joppa/Joppatowne Community meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7:00 P.M. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. The April meeting was held at the new Harford County Sheriff's Office Southern Precinct, 1305 Pulaski Highway, Joppa, MD. Meeting Number 121 was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairperson Paula Mullis, followed by the pledge of allegiance. Local council members present were Paula Mullis, Gloria Moon, Betty Byrne, Yvonne R. Baldwin, Vincent Rabenau, JoAnn Macdonald, and Doris Carey. Members absent were Ron Sollod, Jim B. Lyons, III and Bob Frisch. Chairperson Mullis gave a special welcome to Mike Kalinski, aide to State Senator Nancy Jacobs. It was moved by JoAnn Macdonald and seconded by Yvonne Baldwin that the March minutes be approved.

The Sheriff's Office / Community Policing Report

Corporal Vetrone of the Sheriff's Office reported that there has been a rash of burglaries in the Kingsville area. He reminded the community members that to avoid break-ins they must keep doors and windows locked. There were a couple of burglaries on Mountain Road and on Old Joppa Road. Corporal Vetrone also answered questions about fires in the area. He was thanked by the chair for his report.

Mike Kalinski, representing Senator Nancy Jacobs, said the Senator plans to assist the community with issues concerning the waste transfer station. Kalinski said he has requested the State Highway Administration to conduct a study along Route 7 in the vicinity of the proposed waste transfer station. He stated he has asked the Maryland Department of the Environment to conduct a survey to help determine if the property is suitable for the proposed facility. Kalinski stated that Delegate Glass is on board with supporting the community against having the waste facility in the Joppa area. He also said that Sen. Jacobs plans to bring community leaders as well as elected officials together to continue the discussion concerning the waste facility. Kalinski gave phone and cell numbers where he could be reached for the community to share any information concerning the waste facility. The numbers are 1-800-492-7122, extension 3158 or cell phone 410-658-6021. Your elected officials are there to help, he said.

Many community and council members spoke about their perceptions of whether or not county representatives are supporting the efforts to have the waste transfer facility placed somewhere other than the former Pleckers property. Local council member, Gloria Moon, mentioned that our first major fight is with the county council. She said that in County Executive David Craig's proposed 2013 budget the Joppa site has been listed as the place to build the waste facility, and \$3.5 million has been requested for engineering plans. She also said the county government is planning to put the facility in Joppa, and the government doesn't care who

lives in Joppa and doesn't even want the community to know what is being done to them. In response to community members' questions of what are our next steps should be, Vincent Rabenau suggested the group become more organized. It was suggested that the community gather petitions to stop the trash transfer station. Vincent Rabenau also said that the petitions must become viral. He encouraged people to send their petitions to "ipetition.com" so that all petitions can be downloaded and handed over to local officials.

It was stated that Harford County Council budget meetings have been scheduled for May 2 at 7 p.m. at the Bel Air High School and on May 9 at 7 p.m. at the Havre de Grace High School. Everyone is encouraged to attend and let the council members know their feelings about a waste facility at the Pleckers site in Joppa. There have been community members in other parts of the county who feel the waste transfer station will affect their lives as well. We encourage all Harford Countians to attend the meetings and let their council persons know their concerns. There are issues of traffic and emergency services which are great concerns to community members. Already, many citizens are being affected by increased traffic on Route 7 and other areas.

Paula Mullis said she met with County Executive David Craig to discuss the community's concern about the transfer station. The discussion went nowhere. She also mentioned how disrespectful the representatives were who came from the county executive's office to speak with the community members concerning the transfer station. She thought the tone of the audience was very respectful. County Executive Craig was apologetic.

Local council member JoAnn Macdonald thanked everyone for coming out and supporting the community's efforts. Yvonne Baldwin reminded the community members that Joppa will be 300 years old this year. Vincent Rabenau reminded everyone that we should continue to make our voices heard concerning the waste facility. Paula Mullis said that the community needs to get others involved in the trash fight. There is strength in numbers. She also appreciates that Senator Jacobs will soon be involved with the community's effort. Doris Carey mentioned that the Susquehanna Center at Harford Community College has been renamed the APG Federal Credit Union Arena at HCC for the next 15 years. She mentioned that there are 1,200 seats ready to be named. The money will be used to support the arena's programming, operations, equipment and technology. Towson University has been given the go ahead to build a satellite school in the next 21 months.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Minutes by Doris Carey